

Freedom Stories

Ordinary people caught-up in extraordinary circumstances...



**"The collective wisdom of the characters is astonishing.
They've had so much taken from them, yet they give so much."**

Arnold Zable - award-winning author & storyteller

PG

Mild themes and
coarse language



A documentary from Flying Carpet Films
Directed by **Steve Thomas** (*Hope, Black Man's Houses*)



Providing a welcome respite from the hysteria surrounding asylum seekers, *Freedom Stories* takes a considered and poignant approach to the lives and achievements of former 'boat people' who now call Australia home.

Award-winning, collaborative filmmaker Steve Thomas (*Hope*) explores the stories of people who arrived from the Middle East around 2001, some just children. Thrust into the contentious political climate surrounding the Tampa and Australia's stance at the time, they

linguished in mandatory detention in remote places such as Woomera and Nauru, and then on temporary protection visas that extended their limbo.

Yet with astonishing resilience and enthusiasm to contribute, they have slowly rebuilt their lives here. Like those who have followed, these were ordinary folk caught up in the consequences of political brinkmanship. A decade or so later it's time for their voices to be heard.



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Painting by **Shafiq Monis** Running Time **99 Minutes**

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